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## VOTERS' GUIDE

EXPLAINING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

TO THE  
CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

November 2, 1982

YOU MAY TAKE THIS  
GUIDE WITH YOU  
TO THE POLLS.

## TO THE VOTERS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:

At the November 2, 1982 election, your ballot will carry four questions for your consideration. Questions 2, 3 and 4 refer to proposed amendments to the New Hampshire Constitution. If two-thirds of the people who vote on any given question vote YES then the Constitution will be amended as indicated in the question.

Question No. 1 appears on your ballot because of Part II, Article 100 of the Constitution. It instructs the Secretary of State to submit to the voters the question *"Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the Constitution if that question has not been on the ballot in the past 10 years?"*

The other questions have been proposed by the New Hampshire Legislature which also has authority to consider and recommend changes in your Constitution.

This Voters' Guide was prepared by the Office of Legislative Services at the direction of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House. The funds to print it were appropriated by the Legislature.

The Guide includes each question exactly as it will appear on the ballot and explains the effect of each proposed amendment.

As you will see, the issues are important and deserve your study and your vote.

**"Every voter who wishes to vote Yes will make a cross in the square near the word Yes; if he wishes to vote No he will make a cross in the square near the word No. If he makes no cross in either square, his ballot will not be counted as to such questions."**

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### **(Question proposed by the Secretary of State)**

**QUESTION NO. 1.** Shall there be a convention to amend the constitution? **Yes** ☐  
**No** ☐

### **(Question proposed by the 1977 Legislature)**

**QUESTION NO. 2.** Are you in favor of amending the Constitution to provide that the Secretary of State shall lay the votes for Governor before the senate and house of representatives on the first Wednesday following the first Tuesday of January? **Yes** ☐  
**No** ☐

This question is submitted to the voters by the 1977 Legislature on votes of 263 to 1 in the house of representatives and 20 to 0 in the senate. (CACR 16)

### **(Questions proposed by the 1981 Legislature)**

**QUESTION NO. 3.** Are you in favor of amending the Constitution of New Hampshire to affirm that all persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property, and the state? **Yes** ☐  
**No** ☐

This question is submitted to the voters by the 1981 Legislature on votes of 269 to 85 in the house of representatives and 19 to 2 in the senate. (CACR 6)

**QUESTION NO. 4.** Are you in favor of amending the Constitution to provide for electing the Governor every four years, with a limitation of two consecutive terms? **Yes** ☐  
**No** ☐

This question is submitted to the voters by the 1981 Legislature on votes of 329 to 12 in the house of representatives and 20 to 3 in the senate. (CACR 5)

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# QUESTION NO. 1

CALL FOR  
CONVENTION

1. Shall there be a convention  
to amend the Constitution?
- Yes ☐  
No ☐

## AT THE PRESENT TIME:

The state Constitution may be amended in two ways. The Legislature may submit articles to amend the Constitution to the people for their approval, or a specially elected constitutional convention may submit articles to the people for their approval. The article which outlines the procedure for amending the Constitution (Part II, Article 100) requires a vote every 10 years on whether or not there shall be a special convention called to amend the Constitution.

## IF THE QUESTION IS ADOPTED:

A constitutional convention will be held, probably in 1984. Four hundred delegates will be elected at a general election according to districts established for the house of representatives. The last constitutional convention was held in 1974.

*This question is submitted to the voters by the Secretary of State as mandated by Part II, Article 100 of the Constitution of New Hampshire and was not voted on by the Legislature.*

# QUESTION NO. 2

ELECTION  
RESULTS

2. Are you in favor of amending  
the Constitution to provide that  
the Secretary of State shall lay  
the votes for Governor before  
the senate and house of repre-  
sentatives on the first Wednes-  
day following the first Tuesday  
of January?
- Yes ☐  
No ☐

## AT THE PRESENT TIME:

The Constitution requires the Secretary of State to present the results of the Governor's election to the Legislature on the first Wednesday in January following the biennial election. Until it was amended in 1974 the Constitution also provided that the Legislature would assemble on the first Wednesday in January. To avoid having to assemble the Legislature on New Year's Day if it fell on a Wednesday, the 1974 amendment changed the day on which they were to assemble to the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January. When this amendment was adopted, however, no change was made in the provision for the time at which the Secretary of State was to present the election results to the Legislature.

## IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED:

The day on which the Legislature assembles and the day on which the Secretary of State presents the election results for the office of Governor to them will be the same. The Secretary of State will present the election results on the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January.

*This question is submitted to the voters by the 1977 Legislature on votes of 283 to 1 in the house of representatives and 20 to 0 in the senate. (CACR 16)*

## QUESTION NO. 3

BEARING  
ARMS

3. Are you in favor of amending the Constitution of New Hampshire to affirm that all persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property, and the state?

Yes ☐  
No ☐

### ***AT THE PRESENT TIME:***

The Constitution provides that all persons have certain and inherent rights which include the enjoyment and defense of life and liberty and the acquisition, possession and protection of property. The United States Constitution gives citizens the right to bear arms; there is no similar provision in the New Hampshire Constitution covering this matter.

### ***IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED:***

The right of persons to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state will be expressly recognized in the state constitution.

*This question is submitted to the voters by the 1981 Legislature on votes of 269 to 85 in the house of representatives and 19 to 2 in the senate. (CACR 6)*

## QUESTION NO. 4

GOVERNOR'S  
TERM OF OFFICE

4. Are you in favor of amending the Constitution to provide for electing the Governor every four years, with a limitation of two consecutive terms?

Yes ☐  
No ☐

### ***AT THE PRESENT TIME:***

The Constitution provides for the election of the Governor every 2 years. It does not provide any limit on the number of consecutive terms a person may be elected Governor.

### ***IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED:***

Beginning with the November 1986 election, the governor will be elected to a four year term. No person will be allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms as Governor.

*This question is submitted to the voters by the 1981 Legislature on votes of 329 to 12 in the house of representatives and 20 to 3 in the senate. (CACR 5)*